

PROFILES

School Health Profiles

What is the School Health Profiles (Profiles)?

The School Health Education Profiles assesses the status of school health programs and policies among samples of middle/junior high and senior high schools in CDC-funded states and selected large cities. Profiles was first conducted in 1996 and is designed to answer the following questions:

- What health-related topics and skills are taught in required health education courses?
- What teaching methods are used in required health education courses?
- What preservice and in-service education do lead health education teachers receive?
- What collaboration occurs between health education staff and other school staff and community members?
- Who is responsible for coordination of health education?
- What school policies exist for physical education and activity, tobacco-use prevention, nutrition, violence prevention, asthma management, and HIV infection?

How is Profiles conducted?

School-level data are collected via self-administered mail questionnaires completed by the principal and the lead health education teacher. Completion of the survey is voluntary and confidential. Follow-up telephone calls and written reminders are used to encourage participation. With technical assistance from CDC, staff of state and large city departments of education and health conduct a Profiles every 2 years. Surveys were last conducted in 2002 and the average principal sample size was 284 schools and the average teacher sample size was 282 schools.

What type of support is available?

CDC's technical assistance includes

- A handbook on how to conduct Profiles.
- Selection of representative sample of schools.
- A technical assistance website and toll-free number.
- Analysis of data and preparation of site-specific reports.
- Assistance applying survey results to improve school health programs and policies.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

How are Profiles data used?

State and local education and health officials use Profiles data in a variety of ways:

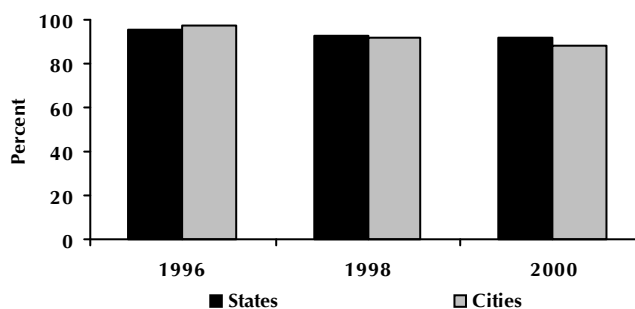
- Advocate for required health education
- Identify health education topics and skills that are taught
- Identify parent and community involvement in health education
- Identify topics for staff development
- Improve school health programs and policies
- Determine how well schools address the health and safety needs of their students

What are the results from Profiles data?

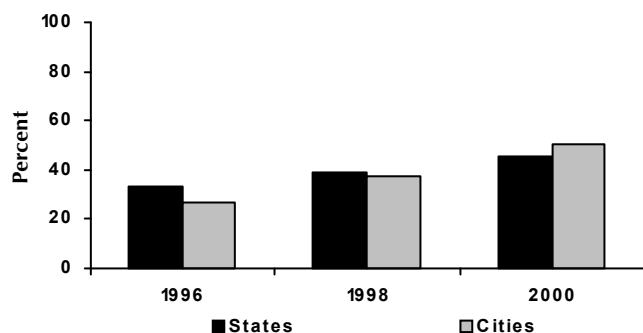
Number of Participating Sites

	1996	1998	2000	2002
States	40	37	38	43
Territories	0	1	1	1
Cities	13	12	13	13

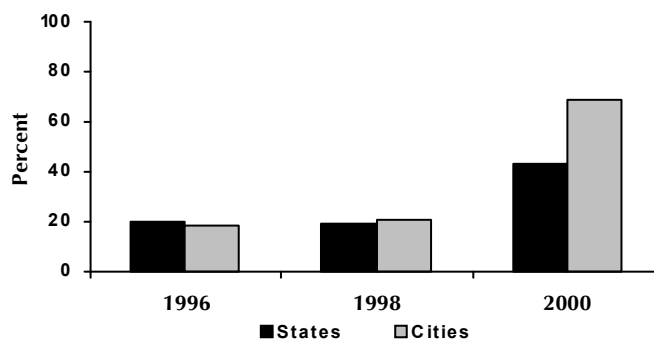
Median Percentage of Schools That Required Health Education for Students in Grades 6-12



Median Percentage of Schools in Which a Health Education Teacher was Responsible for Coordinating Health Education



Median Percentage of Schools With a School Health Advisory Committee or Council



Where can I find more information?

More information about Profiles is available at www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dash/Profiles or call (888) 231-6405. This web site includes Profiles reports.